

# COMMON NAMES FOR MIDWESTERN FOREST TREES

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	SUGGESTED COMMON NAME
Quercus Xmegaleia.....	Lyrarpa Oak
Quercus Xmutabilis.....	Miquoria Oak
Quercus Xdiscreta.....	Swope Oak
Crataegus acanthacolonensis	Thornhill Hawthorn
Crataegus disperma.....	Schiller Hawthorn
Crataegus mortonis.....	Morton Hawthorn
Crataegus vegeta.....	Calumet Hawthorn
Crataegus gemmosa.....	Alder Hawthorn
Crataegus leucantha.....	Glenview Hawthorn
Crataegus apiomorpha.....	Du Page Hawthorn
Crataegus lucorum.....	Grove Hawthorn
Crataegus paucispina.....	Shortspine Hawthorn
Crataegus macrosperma.....	Variable Hawthorn
Crataegus tortilis.....	Birchleaf Hawthorn
Crataegus magniflora.....	Magniflora Hawthorn
Crataegus blothra.....	Harmswoods Hawthorn
Vaccinium arboreum.....	Farkleberry
Forestiera acuminata.....	Swamp-Privet

The following statement of noble purpose appears on page 14 of the U.S.F.S. "Check List of Native and Naturalized Trees of the United States," Agriculture Handbook 41:

"Adoption of standardized English plant names increases clarity and reduces confusion, conduces to uniformity of usage, and, if the names are carefully and properly selected, contributes to best usage."

Dr. E. L. Little has apparently repudiated the above principle because he has declined to progress for handling by the U.S.F.S. Tree and Range Plant Name Committee all my proposals for common names.

"Standardized Plant Names," published in 1942 (hereinafter referred to as SPN), contains "more than 90,000 common and scientific names." Since this book was published many new species and hybrids have been discovered and described and new combinations have come to be recognized. The common names in this book are the same as in the Check List for the most part, but there are some differences. This book was prepared by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature. All the members of that committee are dead and there is no successor to the committee, so that no further action in that direction is possible.



No wild trees will be shown in the reissue of "Hortus Second," which will not be a worthy successor to SPN.

The 8th edition of Gray's Manual does not reveal much of an effort by its author to use the common names in either the Check List or SPN. "Bur Oak" and "Chinkapin Oak," the approved names for Q. macrocarpa and muehlenbergii, respectively, are not shown. Celtis occidentalis and laevigata are not distinguished by common names; both "Hackberry" and "Sugarberry" are shown above both species.

We Midwesterners are therefore faced with the deplorable situation that the Eastern savants have no interest in giving common names to Midwestern trees and too little interest in uniform nomenclature. It is shortsighted for dendrologists to think that their work is finished when they call a tree by a scientific name. There is such a thing as educating the public about trees. The man on the street, speaking English and not Latin, knows the objects that he is interested in by English names. If a tree has a scientific name and no common name, he regards the naming as a half-baked job.

I hope that the names in the list at the beginning of this article will be used by everybody. In most cases no other name has been suggested.

The following paragraphs set forth the justifications for the suggested common names. Where the common name is similar to the scientific name, no comment is necessary.

Quercus Xmegaleia Laughlin, lyrata X macrocarpa; Phytologia 8:153-159. "Lyrarpha" represents a telescoping of the specific epithets of the parent species.

Quercus Xmutabilis, palustris X shumardii; Phytologia 6:374-378. There is a hybrid-swarm in the Big Oak Tree State Park in Mississippi County, Missouri. "Miquoria" is a coined name and is made up as follows: Mi from Mississippi County and River; qu from Quercus; oria from Hicoria. It alludes to the magnificent Oaks and Hickories in that park.

Quercus Xdiscreta Laughlin, shumardii X velutina; Phytologia 7:410-416. "Swope" honors Swope Park, Kansas City, Mo., where the tree is found, and its donor, Thomas H. Swope.

Crataegus acanthacolonensis Laughlin; pp. 9-12 of my "Manual of the Hawthorns of Cook and Du Page Counties of Illinois." Most of the trees are on Thornhill in the Morton Arboretum. "Thornhill" is a translation of the Greek name.

Crataegus disperma; pp. 12-14 of my Hawthorn Manual. Schiller Woods is the center of dispersion of



this species in the Chicago region.

Crataegus vegeta; p. 19 of my Hawthorn Manual. Sargent reported this species from Calumet, Ill.; but it is found elsewhere in southern Cook County.

Crataegus gemmosa; pp. 20-21 of my Hawthorn Manual. Its thick olive green leaves resemble the Speckled Alder.

Crataegus leucantha Laughlin; pp. 22-23 of my Hawthorn Manual. The type tree is in the Glenview Woods in Glenview, Ill.

Crataegus apiomorpha; pp. 34-35 of my Hawthorn Manual. I have found this species only in Du Page County.

Crataegus lucorum. "Grove" is a translation of the Latin name.

Crataegus paucispina; pp. 36-37 of my Hawthorn Manual. The spines are distinctively short (as well as sparse).

Crataegus macrosperma Ashe. I called this species "Large-Seed Hawthorn" in my Hawthorn Manual because that was the name in the Check List. This name is very inappropriate because the nutlets are not large in any sense. "Variable Hawthorn," the name given to it by Peattie in his "Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America," is more appropriate.

Crataegus tortilis; pp. 40-41 of my Hawthorn Manual. There is a slight resemblance in the shape of the leaves to the River Birch.

Crataegus blottra Laughlin; pp. 49-51 of my Hawthorn Manual. This tree is in Harms Woods in Glenview, Ill.

Vaccinium arboreum. "Farkleberry" is the name shown in SPN and Webster's Dictionary and is preferable to the Check List's "Tree Sparkleberry." There is nothing sparkling about this blueberry tree.

Forestiera acuminata. "Texas Forestiera," the name shown for this species in SPN, is a misnomer and properly applies to F. texana. Acuminata is a species of the lower Mississippi valley. "Swamp-Privet" is the name shown in the Check List and tree books.